(*b*) No undertaking of the kind can be given.

(*c*) and (*d*) The answer is in the affirmative. Mr. Hodgson's proposals have been referred back to Mr. Stephenson.

Proportion between the First and Second Grade Teachers in the Education Department.

344. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to explain why the ratio of 1:2 between the first and second grade teachers was reduced to 1:3 at the time of the last revision of salaries?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to restore the old ratio 1:2?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The member is referred to paragraph 10 of G. O. No. Fl. 896, dated the 29th April, 1922.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Enhancement of Political Pensions.

345. MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Edavakai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have not received petitions from most of the families of political pensioners for an increase in their pensions based on the number of individuals participating in the same; and

(*b*) whether they have considered them and contemplate making any provision for the purpose in the budget for 1100 M. E?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Applications have been received from fourteen families.

(*b*) One of the applications has been disposed of and the others are under consideration.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Edavakai*): In view of the fact that the number of families which have applied for increase of pension is only 14, and that constitutes most of the families in Travancore which are in receipt of pension, will it be taken up as a general question or will it be disposed of separately?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It seems to me, Sir, that it is not a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: I think it may be considered as a supplementary question.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Then my answer is that there is no necessity for taking it as a general question.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Edavakai*): May I presume that the Government intend to dispose of them only on the basis of the grounds put forward in each petition?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

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